THE LANCET.

VOL. VII.—No. 6.] LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1825. [*Price* 6*d*

LECTURES

ON THE

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

OF PHYSIC,

BY DR. ARMSTRONG.

Theatre of Anatomy, Webb Street.

LECTURE 25.

In this Lecture I shall make some observations on the

Treatment of the various modifications of Ophthalmia.

The first variety of ophthalmia which I shall mention, is the *ophthalmia tarsi;* the treatment of which is twofold; first, the treatment of the local affection itself, and, secondly, the treatment of the disorder of other parts of the body with which it is conjoined.

In regard to the local treatment of the eye, the principal thing generally necessary is to apply the citrine ointment to the edges of the eye-lids occasionally. The best method of using it is as follows:—Take a small camel's hair brush, and having dipped it into the softened ointment, pass it rapidly through the flame of a candle or lamp, giving it at the same time a rotatory motion, between the fingers and thumb, to prevent the hairs of the brush from being burnt. Having thus melted the ointment, smear it lightly over the lower and upper lid, along each tarsal line. For the most part, the only thing beside which requires to be attended to is to wash away the gum from the eye in the morning with warm water, for the morbid secretion acts as an irritant to the eye, if allowed to remain. If the edges of the lids be so much affected as to be thus strongly glued together in the morning, it is better to insert a little fine Florence oil between the lids at night, or to apply a little of the zinc ointment to the tarsi; but one of the best things to prevent the glueing of the lids is not to overload the stomach at bed time, or even to disturb it during the day by indigestible food. If the patient does so, the secretion becomes more copious, and a greater degree of irritation is induced in the eye; indeed that gummy secretion about the eyelids in the morning may be considered as one of the most constant signs of irritation of the stomach. In addition to this, a little laxative medicine should be given if the bowels do not act regularly. Almost all these patients have a furred tongue, and slow or irregular bowels. The reason of this is twofold, either there is a defective secretion of bile, or the colon is torpid without such a deficiency, a circumstance by no means uncommon.

It is of importance to investigate this point, especially now that mercury is so fashionable in London, for there is not the least occasion to employ mercury, unless you have evidence of a defective biliary secretion, or a depraved secretion of bile independently of the influence of medicine. If you have any doubt on the latter point, give the medicine up for a few days, and satisfy yourselves that it is not thus produced, since the means which are employed, especially mercury, often change the character of the stools. Then be guided by the kind of stools; if they should show a sufficient quantity of bile, omit the mercury, for the fault then is in the colon, and give some warm resinous aperient, for example, a grain or two of aloes, with the extract of gentian, and, if necessary, a few grains of the

extract of rhubarb; and if these do not operate sufficiently, assist them now and then by a little cold drawn castor oil, an excellent remedy where the colon is torpid, and torpidity of the colon is often a cause of torpidity of the liver itself. Infusion of senna is a very good medicine in such cases, especially when combined with some bitter, and warmed by some aromatic water, such as cinnamon. When the stools show a deficient quantity of bile, you may occasionally give an alterative dose of mercury; but as these affections generally occur in those persons called strumous, be very careful to watch its effects, for such persons bear mercury very badly indeed, particularly if they have light hair and light eyebrows. Give, for example, a grain of calomel every other night until the stools become natural; but if you do find them becoming green, chopped, curdly, or slimy, omit the calomel for a short time, and see whether they become natural, for this change in the appearance is the effect of the calomel. Another excellent preparation is the oxydum hydrargyri cinereum, or the grey oxide of mercury, and, what is very extraordinary, it is hardly ever used now; give a grain or two of it every other night in similar cases. The hydrargyrus c. creta is also a good preparation, and so is the notorious blue pill, when discreetly prescribed. Once more I repeat, only exhibit mercury where you ascertain, from an accurate examination, that there is a defective secretion of bile, and when that becomes sufficient, leave off all mercurials instantly. But instead of doing this, some persons recommend mercury to be continued in chronic affections, as long as the stools appear unnatural, not knowing that mercury makes and maintains them so in many cases. The external and internal glands, then, are apt to take on a low kind of inflammation, attended by mucous irritation, and the patient, if young and weak, frequently becomes a mass of scrofula. There is no medicine which appears to me to have so powerful an influence in creating that condition called struma, or scrofula, when given repeatedly in the absence of all febrile symptoms. It is, indeed, a common cause of what is called strumous ophthalmia itself. A third point in the medical management, is the use of the warm bath, the warm salt water bath, an excellent remedy in restoring the healthy functions of the skin, liver, and bowels. With respect to the regimenal management, the food should be wholesome and nutritious. Children should have a meal of bread and milk in the morning, a meal of plain animal food, and a small quantity of vegetables in the middle of the day, and bread with milk again in the evening; cakes, sweetmeats, fruits, and all nice things being avoided. It is important even to attend to the manner in which vegetables are dressed, especially the potatoe, which should be mealy throughout its whole substance, for then it is digested easily enough; but there is nothing more difficult to digest than an imperfectly dressed, hard, or heavy potatoe. Another point to attend to is the *air* which patients breathe, and that, if possible, should be pure. A breath of pure air is at any time better than a dose of blue pill. (A laugh.) Plants languish in a thick close atmosphere, and human bodies do the same. The genuine cockney, therefore, of close, crowded, contaminated situations, is always a degenerate animal. One secret in the maintenance of health in the metropolis, is regular exercise in the open air. *Exercise*, indeed, is another important point, for it has great influence upon the secretions of the skin, stomach, liver, and bowels, and consequently on the process of digestion. The clothing, too, should always be considered in our variable climate. A very delicate child is easily chilled; the skin, stomach, liver, and bowels thereby become disordered, as an attack of strumous ophthalmia is by no means uncommon, which is always the most difficult of cure when the atmosphere is damp and cold. Sleep at early hours is also of more consequence than is usually supposed, for hardly any thing tends to maintain the associated disorder of the skin, stomach, liver, and bowels, with this low indolent kind of inflammation, more than sitting up late at night. Cold and improper food, with want of early or sufficient sleep, are the most common causes of

ophthalmia tarsi, and should therefore be attended to in conducting the cure.

Now as to that modification of inflammation of the eyelids combined with chronic inflammation of the conjunctiva, it will generally yield to a similar local and regimenal management. This modification is by no means uncommon in adults, and it is surprising how rapidly many patients recover when treated in the above mentioned way. I saw a lady who had this form of ophthalmia. Her eyes were gummy and red, like a ferret's; she was obviously out of health; her skin was pale, her tongue furred, her sleep unsound and unrefreshing, and her stools morbid and scanty. This, indeed, is generally the condition of patients with such a chronic affection. On investigating the habits of this patient, I found a cause sufficient to account not only for the inflammation of the eye, but for all the other symptoms. I desired her to put down on a piece of paper the quantity and the kind of all fluids and solids which she took in the course of the twenty-four hours. It was an enormous quantity; 50 or 60 ounces of solids and fluids was this lady in the habit of swallowing daily. I put her upon a simple diet of 16 ounces of food in the day, and the ophthalmia disappeared in a very short time. Patients themselves must mainly contribute to cure chronic affections. There is very little efficacy in medicine, abstractedly considered, in such cases. It is only one of many measures the conjunction of which is necessary to produce the desired effect. Do be honest in your intercourse with your patients. Remove from their minds that mysterious and mistaken efficacy which they ascribe to mere medical prescription, and teach them to rely less on medicines, and more on themselves, in the cure of all such affections. Endeavour to correct all bad habits. In this chronic affection, however, a stimulant application sometimes does good, and, in general, nothing answers better than a weak solution of the sulphate of copper, or alum, or a very minute proportion of the nitrate of silver in water. Let the rule of application be the diminution of the pain. If there be any local increase of pain, it does harm.

A frequent form of inflammation is a subacute inflammation of the conjunctiva, occurring in delicate habits, namely, *strumous ophthalmia*. In this affection there is a tendency to ulceration in the cornea, or about its margin, with an intolerance of light disproportionate to the degree of the inflammation. When you find a patient with a skin hotter, and pulse quicker than natural, then local bloodletting has a good effect; apply the leeches to the temples, or to the epigastrium. Certainly if the tongue be red at the tip I would rather apply them to the epigastrium. I do not think it is of much importance where you apply the leeches, but I would advise you not to apply them too near the eye, as I have known the puncture surrounded with a sort of erysipelatous blush, which kept up the irritation in the eye. If you were to evert the lower lid, and find the vessels very much enlarged, and if you have a very steady hand you might pass very delicately a small instrument along the conjunctiva lining the lid, and empty the vessels by making a line as fine as a hair; but take care to wash the eye perfectly clean of any coagula afterwards, as they otherwise become a source of irritation. Scarification does harm, unless it be most delicately performed. After you have reduced the inflammation by local bleeding, sometimes great benefit results from blisters, provided they do not quicken the circulation of the blood; count the number of the pulse, and if you find it quicker after the blister has been applied, you may be sure that it does harm; if the heart's action be increased, the inflammation is generally increased. The diet should be regulated by the presence or absence of fever. If there be fever, the diet must be of the blandest kind, such as arrow-root, gruel, or milk-whey. Sometimes it happens that this form of ophthalmia assumes an acute character, becoming suddenly very severe. This was the case in a boy who had ulceration of the cornea, but I did not hesitate to bleed from the arm to approaching syncope, and immediately afterwards gave him a dose of opium, by which he recovered. When the fever is removed, the diet should still be simple, but animal food

may then be allowed, and cold should be avoided by the patient till the strength be restored; for, as I before mentioned, cold and indigestible food are apt to occasion a relapse of the inflammation.

Another form of inflammation of the eye has been called common ophthalmia, or *common inflammation of the conjunctiva*, it is the same as the former, only it occurs in a strong subject, whereas the other occurs in a debilitated one. You must, in its treatment, be guided entirely by the degree. If it be acute, bleeding is the main remedy; you may take blood from a vein, from the temporal artery, or by cupping; there is no advantage which any one of these modes can be said to have over the other; but in inflammatory cases, where the excitement is not high, bleeding by leeches seems to affect the heart's action, and local disorder, through a less quantity of blood, and hence their utility in mucous inflammations. You must be guided by the effect which the bleeding produces in acute common ophthalmia; you must bleed generally to approaching syncope, and you will then perceive the conjunctiva blanched, and the pain will be removed; and if you exhibit a full opiate, as soon as the patient recovers from the faintness, you will often prevent the necessity of a repetition of the operation. A friend of mine, in the country, has been in the habit of bleeding patients in common acute ophthalmia, whilst they are standing, because syncope approaches then with the least loss of blood, but he takes especial care to lay the patient down before the syncope takes place.

A second remedy is the use of purgative medicines, as a combination of calomel and rhubarb, or jalap, followed up by the saline purges, and where the inflammation returns you may give colchicum, say four or five grains of the powdered bulb every six hours, until nausea be induced, and then it must be withdrawn. I have had less occasion to repeat bloodletting since I used the colchicum. I recollect having seen a gentleman a few years ago, who had a violent attack of ophthalmia, for which he was bled largely, both generally and locally, and his health was so broken up that he never recovered his former vigour; the remedy proved nearly as bad as the disease. Now, from what I have since seen, I believe that if colchicum had been given, he would have recovered much more rapidly, and without such repeated bloodlettings.

A third mean for the removal of this inflammation is a blister behind the ear, or the nape of the neck.

Fourthly, the use of lotions is attended with some advantage, and nothing answers so well, generally, as tepid water; sometimes, however, cold answers better; you cannot lay down any precise rule when you shall use cold, or when tepid water, but you must consult the feelings of the patient; if the tepid water do not soothe, then apply the cold, but generally the cold increases the inflammation of the eye. There are various medicated lotions used in the treatment of acute common inflammation of the eye, but I believe that they usually do more harm than good. If you find the inflammation difficult to get rid of by the measures which I have just mentioned, you may give cautiously a combination of calomel and opium, until the calomel slightly affects the mouth, and then discontinue it at once. Nauseants, especially colchicum, and the tartarized antimony are sometimes very useful when the inflammation does not readily yield to the ordinary measures. But the colchicum is preferable, if it be rightly managed.

Now, in regard to the regimenal management, diet is the principal thing to be regulated; it must be bland in all these cases as long as the inflammation continues. Light must be excluded to a certain extent; but it is bad to keep the patient altogether in a dark room, because the admission of light to the eye afterwards irritates it excessively. The eye should be shaded, but not by any thing tied closely over it, for that accumulates the heat; the shade should be at a little distance from the eye, like the fore part of a cottage bonnet.—Another point to be attended to is, the equalisation of the temperature in which you place the patient; it should never be higher than 62 degrees; the trunk should be erect, and the patient should not lay his head on a pillow on

that side where the eye is inflamed, since the heat is then concentrated about the part, and the inflammation is thereby aggravated. When you have succeeded in greatly lessening the inflammation, when the pain, excessive redness, intolerance of light, and scalding of the tears, have subsided, then the conjunctiva is apt to assume a flabby appearance, and a chronic, or atonic form of inflammation may continue for some time.—Now in this state of the eye, the vinum opii may be used with advantage, one drop at a time, morning and evening, being put very gently into the eye. Some washes may be used in this stage of the affection, often with benefit, as a grain of the oxymuriate of mercury to four ounces of distilled water, with a drachm of the vinum opii, or the sulphate of copper wash, in the proportion of two grains to the ounce of water. When a chronic inflammation supervenes upon an acute, it requires the employment of the same measures, only used to a much less extent. But it is a common error with patients, when they think they are getting well, to neglect themselves, and the consequence is that the disorder returns.

The treatment of the next form which I have to mention, is the *purulent ophthalmia*, an inflammation modified by the intensity of a common cause, or by the peculiar property of a specific one. It varies in its character; it may be acute, subacute or chronic, or atonic; and as it often terminates rapidly by sloughing of the cornea, and other disorganisation, so it requires to be actively treated. When it occurs in the adult, you must bleed at once to approaching syncope, and give a full opiate soon afterwards. Mr. PEACH has published some good observations in the Edinburgh Journal for 1807, as to the necessity of bleeding fully and decisively in this form, as it occurred in the army. He repeated the bleeding whenever a feeling of sand in the eye announced a return of the inflammation. You should, at the same time, give purgatives, and combine with them colchicum, in the way formerly recommended, which are excellent auxiliaries. One peculiarity of this affection is, that it becomes rapidly chronic or atonic. This alteration is denoted by the conjunctiva having a dirty and flabby appearance, while the patient becomes more affected by languor and lassitude. Then you must lay aside the active antiphlogistic treatment, give mild aperients, and use the alum wash, which in these cases is extremely useful. At first, two grains of alum to an ounce of water is often sufficient, gradually increasing the proportion according to the patient's feelings, in fact, being guided by the alleviation or increase of pain. As cases of this kind may be communicable from person to person, the operator should take care to avoid any contact of the matter through his hands to his own eyes, or through the spirting of the lotion when he may inject it into the eye. He should also give all those directions to the attendants which may enable them to remain free from such a formidable disorder. As this affection most frequently occurs in very young children, local bleeding is the best for them in the first instance, with the use of the astringent lotion as soon as the atonic stage commences. But in all such cases, see that the child has its natural food, the mother's or the nurse's milk; regulate its bowels daily, and be sure that it may breathe a pure atmosphere, which has great influence in such examples. In the advanced stages, bark is sometimes beneficial, especially the sulphate of quinine, where sloughing of the cornea is threatened or has occurred. But if you adopt the treatment before mentioned in the first instance, you will, in general, not only prevent this, but the occurrence of that granular state of the lids which is often exceedingly difficult to remove under every treatment which has been recommended. Upon the whole, a subdued antiphogistic one, with a very strict regulation of the diet, answers a better purpose than any other, as far as I have observed, aided by the use of the blue stone locally, or Goulard's extract.

Treatment of Iritis.

This is remarkably simple; moderate bleeding, followed up by calomel till the mouth be affected, together with the local application of the extract of belladonna, are the principal

remedies. If you wish to affect the system rapidly with calomel, you should bleed first, and give a saline purgative; and calomel then given, in small repeated doses, will remove the disorder very rapidly. The effusion of lymph takes place rapidly in the acute form, and less rapidly in the subacute form. Belladonna must be at the same time employed to dilate the pupil, because if adhesions should form in the contracted state of the pupil, the vision might be permanently impaired. But I must advise you to be particularly cautious, while you are giving the calomel, to watch its effect, and take into account the constitution of the patient; whether, for instance, he has any hereditary, sexual, ætal, or acquired weakness, for if he have, you must be careful lest the weak part suffer an injury from its operation.

When the strength is broken up by a mercurial course, a patient is very liable to have a relapse of iritis, or to an attack of inflammation in the weak organ, from exposure to mere ordinary causes, especially cold.

Inflammation of the retina is occasionally met with, especially under a chronic form, for the acute is even more rare. When it is acute it will require the employment of the most active measures in the shortest possible time, otherwise the sight will be inevitably lost. The chronic form is generally accompanied by some chronic disorder about the stomach, liver, and bowels, and that must be considered attentively in the treatment. Sometimes it is attended by a chronic inflammation of the brain, of which intolerance of light is a frequent symptom; but you will have no difficulty in detecting this combination if you recollect the symptoms which I before enumerated as diagnostic of that affection.

ERRATA.

In Dr. ARMSTRONG's last Lecture, p. 132, for "Iritis is sometimes confounded with syphilis," read "Iritis is sometimes *conjoined* with syphilis." For "incessant amaurosis," read "*incipient* amaurosis."

LECTURES
ON
PHRENOLOGY,
BY
DR. SPURZHEIM.

LECTURE 5:

Adhesiveness.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I COME now to a power which has never hitherto been considered as fundamental, it is that manifestation or power which brings together so as to constitute society. Philosophers have assigned many causes for the formation of societies, and we see that society itself is an institution of the Creator. Beings have been disposed to live in society from the beginning, and the reasons assigned for it have hitherto entirely failed. None of the powers commonly ascribed to society can be explained by it. If society was the cause of determinate powers, should not all beings living in society manifest similar powers? But this is not the case, we find very opposite powers manifested by beings living in society. If you examine nature, you will find that some animals like to live alone, others in flocks; what is the cause of their living in flocks? Philosophers, who reason in their closets, say, that animals congregate to defend themselves, and that weakness is the cause of their association, and that among mankind interest brings us together, and that there are no other reasons. But is it true that weak animals live only in society? Look at the dogs, the hares and the rabbits. Bring hares and rabbits together, the hares will soon make the rabbits run, and the rabbits will live together, whilst the hares will remain alone. Have you ever seen large herds of foxes, or large flocks of magpies? The fox and the magpie live alone, whilst the elephants, which you will not be disposed to call weak animals, like to live in large companies. You will never find that ani-

mals, being weak, associate together to defend themselves; there is an organization, which gives the power of bringing them together. If you reflect a little more upon society, you will find that beings live together in pairs, male and female; the rooks live together in great numbers; many build their nests on the same tree, but they live together in pairs on the different branches. We find that mankind, although living in large numbers together, live together in pairs throughout their whole life. Thus we see that society is an arrangement of nature. I have already taken the liberty of saying, that man does not like to be compared with animals; he is too proud, and he thinks that every thing he does is merely the result of his understanding. Understanding is given to man, but many feelings are also combined with the understanding, and feelings of which the intellect may approve. There is great regularity in the events of nature, and many things happen in man which the understanding approves.

Let us reflect upon society at large, and on the modifications of the feeling which gives rise to it, and first of that one which is called

Friendship.

Among mankind, every one must have observed, that some individuals never show any attachment to others, and, again, there are persons who are so attached to each other, that if you separate them they are never happy. In a peculiar modification we observe the influence of this feeling among animals, especially among dogs; not only do they become much attached to each other, but they become also attached to man, and they have given many very striking proofs of this feeling. It is more active in some individuals than in others, and it is more active in females, generally speaking, than in males. I fear I have sometimes offended females by comparing them with animals, but I merely mean to say, that as following the manifestations of nature, we must observe that certain feelings or propensities are more active in females than in the other sex, and very wisely is it provided that it should be so, as I have before explained.

Is this feeling attached to any organization? We say yes, in the most positive way; Nature has given a part of the brain in order to attach beings to each other, and the situation of it is here, posteriorly, on both sides of inhabitiveness, just here about (placing the hand on that part of the skull). If you find this cerebral part large, you may depend on it that such individuals are very fond of attaching themselves to beings around them. This feeling induces beings to become attached to persons, as the preceding does to places. I say that this feeling is found in animals; will you then call it a moral feeling? We see it in beings not at all famous for their moral actions. There are certain communities very much attached to each other. We find that criminals form great attachments to each other, and some have killed themselves rather than betray their companions, whilst others do mischief to their friends, and even have killed them. The more you reflect on this feeling, you will see that it is of an inferior kind. Let us see examples: I have already said that this feeling is stronger in women than in men, and if we compare this part of the head, which is marked No. 4, in both sexes, we shall find that it is much more developed in females. (Specimens were then shown; casts taken from the heads of persons known to be very fond of each other). Dogs form great attachment to their masters, perhaps they may become the property of others, who may treat them even better than their former masters, yet they will run away from them to their first masters; and in dogs this part of the head is much developed. Here is the cast of an individual who murdered his friend—PATCH, of your country; look at his head, and see whether this part is not very defective. In proportion to the development of this part, you may be always sure that this feeling will be found more or less active, it never fails to be so, as far as I have observed.

Combativeness.

Let us now proceed to the consideration of another question, What is the reason why animals fight? Is there a fundamental power in nature to cause some individuals to be very pugnacious. In different species of animals, we see that some are very timid and fearful, whilst others like to fight, take a pleasure in fighting. Indeed some animals have derived their name from the manifestation of their pugnacity, as the fighting cocks, and many others; we see that they are amused by fighting, and if we let them alone they will attack each other. In mankind we observe many amused by seeing others fight. What is the cause of this? We find that nature has given a peculiar instinct to certain beings which provokes them to fight. If we look to nature, we find some species of animals more disposed to fight than others, and some individuals of the same species more disposed to fight than others; what is the cause of this? Bodily strength, say some, but do we not see that some animals attack and fight others larger and stronger than themselves; the dunghill cock has stronger muscles than the fighting cock, yet we find that the latter overcomes the former. You may observe among the dogs in the streets, that little dogs will often attack great dogs, and the great dogs will run away. I will not deny the influence of muscles, I consider the muscles to be very important, but they are merely as instruments. There is something else, both in man and in animals, which disposes them to fight. You will see some men who are little qualified for it to all appearance, yet display great courage, and who are every minute ready to fight. You will see little boys attack great ones, and the great ones will run away, or will give up their playthings to them; but let the great boys try to take away any thing from the others, and you will see what they will do; you will always find such boys broad here. Here are the casts of two men of your country, known as men of personal courage, Shenton and Curtis, and you will observe that they are very broad here. (Pointing to the organ of combativeness, marked No. 5.) The broader the head is in this part, the more personal courage are they found to possess. I have here two skulls of the Chinese, the one of the Tartar tribe, and the other of the genuine Chinese, and the second is narrower than the first. Whenever a tribe fancies to make an invasion into the territory of another tribe, if they have their heads broad here, although they may be less in point of number, you may be sure that they will become the masters. There are facts of that kind recorded in history, showing that considerable nations have been overcome by others less in number, and of less physical force.

Here is the skull of Robert Bruce, and you may observe that it is very broad here about. This is the cast of the skull of an Hindoo; I have seen fifteen or sixteen skulls of Hindoos, and they have all been narrow here. I do not mean to say that all Hindoos are so, but those who have the opportunity of observing, would render great service to phrenology, if they were to regard this more particularly. It would be necessary, when persons bring skulls from different nations, to give more details with them, as to the character and the habits of such nations. We know that although the Hindoos are, generally speaking, a very timid race of men, yet there are some tribes among them which possess great personal courage. Hence it would not do to form an estimate of any people by a few skulls, unaccompanied by any description, or say this is the skull of an Hindoo, or of a Chinese, speaking of a nation when a tribe ought only to be mentioned. It seems that the ancient artists had some knowledge of the office of this part of the brain, for they have given great development of it to the Gladiators, as well as the other lower propensities. It is certainly curious that they should have given to such men more brain posteriorly than anteriorly. You will see that those persons who are distinguished for personal courage, are broad in this part of the head, and this is a part of the brain common to man and animals. You have many more sby horses in this

country than there are in France; on the other hand, you will see a greater number of vicious horses in Paris than in London, *ceteris paribus*. You will distinguish in the horses in France a greater breadth between the ears, than you will in the shy horses of London. The broader the horse's head is here about the more personal courage is he found to possess. If you look at the fighting cocks, and compare them with the dunghill cocks, you will see that the former are much broader in this part of the head. (Three specimens of the heads of the fighting and dunghill, or Malay cocks, were then shown.) So then it is quite certain, that there is a distinct organization for this power. Some animals are not only courageous to defend themselves, but they appear to take a pleasure in their individual combats.

Destructiveness.

I come now to another feeling which has been disputed, and which has done much harm to phrenology, because phrenologists themselves have called it the organ of murder. But how is murder committed? Let us first ascertain the facts, and then see how we can explain them. In a general way we must admit that destruction is an impulse founded by nature. Is violent death an institution of the Creator? Is there any such thing as destruction? If we only examine nature in a very slight way, we shall find that there are beings in the air, the earth, and the water, that kill each other. There are tigers and lions, and wolves, and foxes, and all these kill other beings; hence, then, there can be no doubt that in nature violent deaths occur. Some persons have attempted to explain this disposition in certain animals, by saying that tigers are furnished with large claws, lions and wolves with powerful teeth, &c. and that in consequence of their possessing these instruments by nature they feel inclined to use them. But as to instruments, permit me here to make one general observation: Do you think that the employment of instruments can produce a power? No more than circumstances can produce a power. Instruments! the very name points out what they are, they are subservient to other powers. They say man has invented the mechanical arts because he has hands; do you think this can be admitted? Look at an architect who is capable of building even a palace, let his mind be deranged, and see then if he can build a palace, yet his hands remain as before. Without instruments it would be impossible to act, but instruments cannot act of themselves; it would be a contradiction in nature to suppose that the instrument is the power, or that a power is given without an instrument. Give a claw to a sheep, and see if it would kill. Place a monkey in a cold room, by the fire, and let there be a plenty of fuel in the corner of the room, yet he will sit by the fire until it burns out, and will not put any fuel on it, yet he has the power, he has the instruments for doing so.

We consider the instruments as very important, but the power itself remains entire, and does not depend upon the instruments. We observe among animals, that there are some who kill only to satisfy their hunger, whilst there are others who kill a great deal more than is necessary. The pole cat, for example, will continue to kill as long as it can reach fowls to kill, while the lion and tiger only kill such as are necessary, and have therefore been called generous animals. We are obliged to confess, then, that some animals kill others in order to live, as the lion, the tiger, the fox. On what does man live? Is there any species, any living being which kills so many others as man does? There are no other beings that destroy so many things as man do, from the oyster to the whale, or elephant. Man is a destructive being in that sense, and even the construction of his body, particularly his teeth and stomach, ranks him more among the omnivorous than the herbivorous animals, and I have stated therefore that there is a great propensity in man to kill. But there is a very great diversity in the degree of this feeling. There are some persons who have the greatest aversion to kill, if their existence depended on their destroying animals they would die; there are some who have been brought up all their lives in the kitchen, who can never kill a fowl. We find also other

persons who are quite ready for destruction, they kill anything that is required in a minute, and have not the least aversion to do so. I know many facts of this nature, but I shall only show you a few examples in which this feeling, when strong or weak, is shown by the external shape of the head.

I have no other object but to show you that the external parts correspond with the development of the fundamental powers. I do not wish you to adopt phrenology as truth from what I say, I rather wish to invite you to examination. If I speak of an organ of destructiveness, I speak merely of a particular power, but not of its application; not that a man shall commit murder because the organ of destructiveness is full. Some individuals take great pleasure in killing animals, and they have kept animals to have the gratification of killing their young ones. A merchant who lived at Hague, in Holland, paid the butchers to allow him to kill the oxen. Some persons are very fond of seeing public exhibitions in which different animals are set to worry and destroy each other, and some are fond also of seeing public executions of criminals. Among insane persons, in whom the feelings generally act without the least restraint of the intellect, we find some who evince the greatest inclination to kill others. Some, who have a little consciousness remaining, desire that they may be prevented from destroying others.

You must admit these facts; are they attributable to internal causes which induce beings to destroy? It is necessary that such an instinct should exist partially, for the nourishment of some animals, many beings destroy others on that account. Can we not also observe, that in mankind there are persons who take great delight in frequenting the places where others are killed, and they take great diversion in killing others. We see sometimes this feeling very active even in children. We know that children are very busy; generally they are kept employed, and persons have said that children take a pleasure in destroying, merely because they must have something to do. But how does it happen, that although children are so active, they act so differently? Some being well pleased with the destruction of animals and insects, whilst others will avoid doing so. If men be naturally disposed to follow their inclinations, and if education exercises a controlling power over them in some degree, we see the great advantage of directing the education to overcome these feelings which have shown themselves active. Unfortunately we see men who, in spite of the restraints of education, do follow their natural inclinations; and see if this cerebral part be not much developed. (The part just above, and a little behind the ear, marked No. 6.)

Let us begin with animals. If we observe animals in general, we shall find that all herbivorous animals have the brain small hereabout, above and behind the ear. But if you examine the heads of carnivorous animals, as the wolf, and this is the head of a wolf, (showing one.) You will find that the greatest quantity of brain is situated just above the ear. If a naturalist were to see the heads of each of these species of animals, he would know from the shape of the head whether the animal belonged to the herbivorous or carnivorous kind. You see that the head of the wolf is much broader than the head of the roe; the chamois has this part narrow, whilst in the fox it is very broad (skulls of each of these animals were shown). Compare, again, the cat with the hare; the rabbit with the pole-cat, which you know is an animal fond of destruction. Again, look at the weasel and the quincajou; go through all nature, and you will find that the more brain hereabout the more destructive will the animal be found. Look at men; Dr. GALL has observed several murderers, and he has found that their brains are very large hereabout; that is all; he has noticed the fact. If you find murderers who feel a pleasure in destroying, instead of those who do so to defend themselves or to escape detection, you will find that such persons have great development of brain in this part, above the ear. Here are casts of Stoffel and Keppel, men of this country, the one engaged his companion not to destroy the person they intended to rob, but the other

would destroy, and would not spare the life of the individual, and you see that in one this cerebral part is much larger than in the other.

I have seen many individuals who have shown great propensities to, and who have actually been dreadfully destructive. This is the cast I took of a woman's head in France, her head is very large in this part, her name is Magdalein Albert; she killed several relations. This is the cast of Bellingham, who shot the minister, Mr. Perceval; he imagined that he had received great injustice, and he was determined to be revenged. Now granting him to be a fool, as is believed he was, it is, however, singular, that this individual part should be so much enlarged, and was so very active; some persons do good to others in their insanity; some pray for every one, and certain feelings are more active in proportion as certain parts of the brain are more developed. I have examined so many criminals that I can speak positively of the organ, and unfortunately the organization is too large hereabout. The organs of courage and destructiveness are very large in the head of Robert Bruce, and we know that he was a very bold and courageous man. There are nations who are inferior to others in point of the higher feelings, who nevertheless have this organ largely developed, as the Caribs, and it is ascertained that they are very ferocious and savage. If we compare the skulls of the Hindoos with the skulls of Caribs, we shall see the greatest difference in the development of this part. The head of the Hindoo is elongated, and narrow on the sides, whilst the Carib's head is broad on the side; the latter nation has shown a much greater disposition to destroy.

Having multiplied my observations on animals and on man, I am quite sure that the inclination or disposition to destroy depends upon a particular cerebral part. Now if you reflect upon the peculiar modifying powers, and the necessity of doing so you will admit, you must have observed that they exercise a very great influence in determining the character. You will see that I do not speak of an organ of murder, I do not say that this power is given to destroy other men, but to kill animals, which power or feeling is necessary, but we observe unfortunately, that this feeling, notwithstanding the influence of education and the cultivation of the higher faculties, does break out and overpower them. I do not say that because any man is broad here that he will commit murder, far from it, and I wish to repeat this, that the feeling or inclination to destroy animals is found to be more active in individuals who are broad in this part of the head. This is observation, it is a fact, and that is what phrenology must be founded upon. Some beings take different modes of destroying than others, they like to amuse themselves with their prey first, and then kill, whilst other animals dart upon their prey at once, and destroy it by a *coup de main*; such animals will be always found broad here.

We take the powers in a general way, and by no means speak of their applications, we can only speak of the tendency which certain powers give to particular actions, as they are observed in beings in which the feelings do not control each other, in animals destitute of intellect to exercise an influence upon them. But in man we must remember that there is a combination of higher powers happily blended with the lower propensities, and this combination exercises a mutual influence on each class. I have endeavoured already to explain this when speaking of the love of offspring, of attachment to places, and of combativeness, which must also be taken into consideration when speaking of the feeling of destructiveness; and by reminding you of the combination of the powers and their modifying effects, I shall close for this evening.

REVIEWS FROM THE WEST.

Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.

In order to avoid the imputation of hypercriticism, it may be just as well not to indulge in such observations as a minute analysis of the papers composing the present number of this journal would necessarily lead to; we shall therefore give Mr. Duncan's drivellers a holiday, though they present a rich harvest of philological fun. Were we, indeed, to form an opinion of British practitioners from the mass of illiterateness before us, we more than hope we should be doing them a cruel act of injustice; yet will these compositions speak eloquently for themselves; and though partiality should wrap them up in the soft tissue of apology, still would their darkness be discernible through the veil, like deformity through a cosmetic drapery of *rouge*. It is not at all surprising that foreigners, who have no other means of judging us than by our medical literature, should entertain and promulgate opinions which have so often fretted our vanity and prompted us to unworthy retalliation. Let any honest Englishman ask himself, are the writers of the majority of these cases men of education, literary or professional? We defy him, however painful the confession must be to his national feelings, not to answer in the negative. Presumption usually accomplishes its own chastisement, and it is a truth, of which we are pretty well convinced, that these cases never will be read even by the most curious collectors of detached *periodical* facts. And why? This question will be best answered when we come to give the contents of each article; at present, we shall only remark, generally, that if we were asked to assign a cause for the defects of these and such compositions, we should at once say, that the evil was attributable to an impression made upon the minds of young persons commencing the profession, that all other pursuits were to be excluded, to the sole attainment of the practical parts of the healing art. "Consult the book of nature" is the burthen of every admonitory ditty that we ever yet heard sung into the ears of pupils by their instructors. It is a very specious advice, meaning every thing or any thing—a sort of Sybilline *conundrum*, admitting of various interpretations, in which the end is but too often mistaken for the means, and consequently pregnant with much mischief. Is there no preparation necessary to consult this wondrous book? Are the educated and the uneducated alike capable of digesting its contents? Is there no qualifying lustration required to render the nephite worthy of acceptance with this mighty idol the sages call NATURE? None, whatever, say the professors: let the tyro once make himself master of a certain number of facts; let him learn that an artery is here, a vein there; that this medicine cures that disease; go to Edinburgh, or some other *burgh*, for a season; get a licence; and when he meets with a case in practice associated with the name of some eminent

man, let him send it to a journal, encumbered with a series of silly observations, like a pearl set in the rugged and unseemly tenement of an oyster shell. If we are not greatly deceived, the reign of this doctrine will be of short duration; its grave is already opened in the feelings excited in the public mind. If the profession is ever to be raised to that eminence to which it is entitled, it must be accomplished by the preparatory education of its members. But we must emerge from this labyrinth of speculation, to show the necessity of reform rather by example than by precept.

A fatal case of hydrophobia concluded our review of a former number of this journal; the present commences with one of the same kind, and we need hardly add, that it terminated unsuccessfully. The symptoms were those which usually attend this disease; the treatment, principally, consisted of large doses of the tinctures of opium and colchicum; it afforded scarcely a temporary relief. Dissection has rarely disclosed so many morbid appearances in cases of this disease. The interior of the scalp, the dura mater and pia mater, and arachnoid membrane, were found in a state of vascularity. On dividing the cerebrum, numerous specks of blood appeared on its surface. The velum interpositum, tunica arachnoidea, and theca vertebralis, seemed to have been inflamed; an ounce of serum escaped from the vertebral column, on lowering the head; in the lateral sinuses coagulated blood was discovered; the vasa vasorum of the carotid artery, the par vagum, and sheathes of the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh cervical nerves, where they pass out between the scaleni muscles, each indicated the presence of inflammation, or congestion of blood in their several structures; the cellular membrane and cutaneous nerves of the arm wounded by the dog; the lining membrane underneath the tongue; the fauces, uvula, pharynx, œsophagus, stomach, larynx, trachea, pleura pulmonalis and costalis, presented appearances more or less similar.

The next is also a case of hydrophobia, which occurred some thirty years ago. The author's motive in giving it to the public is rather a curious one; such cases, he says, being very frequent of late, he wishes to add to the number.

To this paper succeeds another, as remarkable for professional neglect (we should have said cruelty) and ignorance as any, we dare say, upon record. It appears that a mail-coach wheel passed over the head of a boy at Glasgow; that he was brought to a surgeon of that place, who dressed and left him so. The next day Mr. Wilson, the writer, was ordered by a sheriff to see him and report his condition. Mr. W. complied to the very letter of his instructions, and explains his conduct thus:—

"My duty being only to report whether the boy was able to *emit a declaration* (a law phrase, we presume) or not, and being of opinion he would not survive long (mind the grounds upon which his opinion was founded), *I declined examining the head minutely at this visit.*"

Well, the following day the boy was *minutely examined*, and a depressed comminuted fracture, three inches in

length and three quarters of an inch in breadth, was found. On the same day, Mr. Wilson was directed to take the case under his care, and, for the *first time*, ordered some aperient medicine. In *seven days* after, Mr. W., who seems, at least while attending *paupers*, to be a very take-it-easy-sort of gentleman, gave the boy's head a lurch, and then discovered another fracture, extending in circumference about ten inches, and the bone depressed below the surrounding parts *only half an inch*. We have heard of such things as elevators, and other instruments, for relieving pressure on the brain, but this case, we think, does away with the necessity of their use in future. The boy, however, "was fated not to die" under any circumstances; and his case presents the most complete triumph of nature over art that has ever come under our observation.

We regret we cannot congratulate Mr. Belcher, a licentiate of the R.C.S. in Ireland, on his professional *debut* in print. This *maiden* essay on the yellow fever of the West Indies, protracted to a harassing extent, presents specimens of the purest medical *bathos* and rigmarole, unrelieved by a single observation either new or instructive. He recommends immediate and full bleedings, as the most successful practice; and remarks, that although the disease is not originally contagious, it may become so in its progress.

We have next a case in which the labia pudendi were removed in a state of elephantiasis; the tumours had been increasing for ten years, and when cut away, weighed thirty-eight pounds. The operation succeeded in relieving the patient's distress.

A curious case of chorea, which the writer distinguishes by the term rotation, from other affections of this kind, is amply discussed; but we cannot afford to follow the writer in all he has advanced upon this topic. The case under consideration was cured by frictions of the ointment of the tartrate of antimony on the scalp and along the course of the spinal cord. It may be tried when other remedies fail. Chorea has found another annotator in the writer of the succeeding case; how abominably it smells of the lamp! it is really intolerable. Take the first sentence as a specimen:—

"The following paper was *hastily* (the usual apology with such driveilers) drawn up and read to my medical brethren in the month of March, with the view of contributing towards the encouragement of such communications (from all such, O Lord, deliver us) among those who associated themselves *exclusively for the purpose of similar subjects* (objects, we suppose, he means); but as that society has ceased to meet (thank God) for reasons *which is* quite unnecessary to enter on here. I am encouraged by an able and experienced friend and physician (a quiz, doubtless) to offer it for the readers of this journal, with very little alteration of its original dress."

He enumerates various fantastic cases of chorea, and seems to take delight in detailing the grimaces and contortions of the victims to this disease.

The eighth paper, by Mr. Dickson of Edinburgh, gives us an account of a medullary sarcoma, situated internally on the lumbar vertebræ. The subject of it was a young man of stru-

mous diathesis; he had received an injury of the testicle in hunting; it had been increasing for six months, when Mr. D. was consulted. Leeches, lotions, and suspensory bandages, and mercurial alteratives, were prescribed. Shortly after this time he was attacked by what appears to have been a bowel complaint, for which the usual remedies were ordered. The testicle still continued in a bad state, and he was a second time visited with the bowel complaint. A fluctuation being now felt in the testicle, the part was punctured, but only a small quantity of watery fluid escaped. The testicle itself was next removed. Having experienced another abdominal attack, he became so well as to be able to ride out in his gig. He still, however, complained of pain in the lumbar region while in an erect position. His general health soon underwent a total change for the worse, and a tumour could be distinctly felt under the umbilicus. From this period to his death he was affected with those symptoms which generally arise from intestinal inflammation. On dissection of the body, a tumour, measuring seven inches in diameter, and adherent to the lumbar vertebræ, was discovered. The contents of the tumour resembled brain. The right spermatic cord was firmly attached to it, and lost, in some manner, on its surface. The liver was larger than in the healthy state; the gall-bladder distended, and tubercles were beginning to form in a part of the lungs.

Mr. Mackenzie, a professor at Glasgow, after some observations on the affections of serous and mucous membranes, communicates the following pathological facts, and proposes an efficient remedy in croup.

"The fact," he says, "to which I refer is, that the exudation of fibrine very frequently commences on the tonsils, thence spreads along the palate, coats the posterior surface of the velum palati; sometimes surrounds the uvula, and at last, descending, covers the internal surface of the larynx, œsophagus, pharynx, and the trachea."

A solution of nitrate of silver, (a scruple to the ounce of distilled water,) applied to the parts with a camel hair pencil, proves, he says, an effectual remedy; it scarcely produces any irritation, and affords the patient almost immediate relief. Any addition to our stock of curative means in this destructive malady should be tried generally, and received with gratitude.

We are fond of brevity, and we shall merely inform our readers, that a case by Dr. Borthwick tells, that he cured three persons of tic dolourenx the carbonate of iron; he gives it to the extent of three drachms a day.

Dr. Scot's case of inflammation of the gall bladder. The patient, previous to this attack, was a healthy man; the symptoms were those which we generally find attending inflammation of the bowels, and the same remedies were applied, but without success. The dissection is thus described: the gall bladder was then removed and examined; on cutting through its coats, they were found to measure half an inch in thickness; a stone was found in its larger end, with a few ounces of thin blackish fluid; the stone was about the size and shape of

a green olive, light for its bulk and crystallized on the surface.

Two or three pages of prosing and vague speculation follow, which we shall not render more apparent by transcription.

A Mr. Nivison, assistant surgeon to the forces, communicates an account of the removal of a tumour from the maxillary sinus.

A married woman, aged forty, in having a carious tooth removed, one of the fangs was broken and left in the jaw; it was subsequently removed, but the surrounding parts suffered some injury in its removal. In some time after, a small tumour descended through the socket from which the fang had been removed, and increased to such an alarming extent that its extirpation became necessary to save the patient's life, and was effected in this manner:—

"The patient was placed in an armed chair opposite a window, and the head being properly supported with pillows, the cheek, by one stroke of the scalpel, was divided, from the centre of the *os malæ* to the angle of the mouth. To render this part of the operation more complete and determinate, it was effected on a sheet of lead, properly bent and curved, and introduced between the parietes of the cheek and the tumour. From the size and projection of the tumour, this plan for the division of the integuments was adopted, in preference to the sharp pointed bistoury, which, without the use of the lead, was the only appropriate instrument that could be employed. The tumour was found of large dimensions, occupying one half of the face, and extending into the cavity of the mouth, exhibiting the appearance of a cauliflower, and by the action of the tongue and the muscles, it was moulded into the shape of the palate; it was then seized firmly by the hand and twisted out by the roots from all its connections."

Though provided with trephines, the operator remarks, that they were quite unnecessary, the entire of the os maxillare being removed by the pressure of the tumour. There was no bleeding of any account. The patient was completely restored to health, and the writer concludes by complimenting Mr. Liston for leading the profession, by his example, to adopt this bold operation in such complicated cases.

A case of concussion of the spine, which some will think throws some light on the contested question of the function of motion and sensation being performed by a distinct set of nerves, concludes these communications. Let them pass—we promised not to offer any severe observations, but we must remark, that the circumstantial minuteness with which the most of them are detailed very much reminded us of a microscopical account which we once read of the configuration of a *flea*.

Shall we venture on the "Reviews?" only seven for three months; we generally give as many in one third of the time. Yes, we shall make a beginning. Review the first—in round numbers all about nothing. A young German came over to England, acquired some smattering of the language, returned home and wrote a book to amuse his countrymen by abusing us. Sawney takes up the cudgel for Old England—makes long faces at the German—attempts to be witty at others' expense—patiently refutes the grossest calumnies, and, instead of levelling the young theorist at once by a few straight hits worthy of John Bull, he encourages by his

lenity the metaphysical sauce-box to future attacks upon our institutions and literature.

Review the second—disputes adjusted, all on one side, between CHARLES BELL and Sir ASTLEY COOPER. This was got up to introduce a vulgar *diatribe* on THE LANCET, we have not space just now to enter the lists—the rod will be the smarter by keeping it the longer in pickle.

Review the third. We really imagined we never should have heard of Harrison or his book. But here we are presented with no less than twenty pages of commentary, and extracts from a work which we may say fell still-born from the press.

Review the fourth; *an extract* from BURNET'S official report of the ascension and ban fever! Prodigious!! The DOMINE putting his hat on the candle was nothing to it.

Review the fifth, the only good thing in the volume; from the extracts which it contains of Mr. Reeve's Treatise on the Rupture of the Uterus.

Review the sixth; some clumsy observations, thrown together on two cases extracted from a recent German periodical, about the extirpation of schirrous uterus. The reviewer and the author both agree in recommending the operation under favourable circumstances.

Review the seventh; a few trite recommendatory remarks on the use and utility of the stethoscope—*lippis et tonsoribus notum.*

The rear is brought up with a half laudatory, half apologistic sort of postscript, on the Edinburgh school of medicine. The writer bears no faint resemblance to a crimp sergeant, beating up for recruits for the Caledonian degree. From this statement, it would appear, from the number of students at this medical head quarters, that it is falling fast into disrepute, for the number of pupils will be ever in proportion to the facility of obtaining a degree. It is cause and effect.

OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEDICAL MAUSOLEUM.

(*Continued from our last, p.* 155.)

" Blood, brains, and limbs, the highest walls distain,
And all around lie squalid heaps of slain." *King Arthur.*

" *Debilitating depletion!*" " *Debilitating starvation!*"—Ye ill-defined agencies—once more, all hail! Rest in peace, gentle spirits, in the cemetery which, by the *genius* of COPLAND, ye so snugly inhabit. No rude antiquarian shall henceforth disturb the quiet of your repose! No future book-worm shall molest your winding sheets! The critical vampire, constrained to revel on the " *vitalised texture*" of the living, or rather on the delicate forms of mere ephemeral existence, shall no more approach the " city of the dead." The desert * by which ye are sur-

* The present ranger is one COPLAND, from whom the barren district is named. The same person is also the *sexton* of the cemetery, for which he is paid a trifling stipend from the exchequer of Messrs. Thomas and George Underwood, the proprietors of the edifice, which the said sexton has rendered most commodious as a receptacle for the dead.

rounded shall be emblematical of the undisputed claims to oblivion which are so justly yours, and nothing but the *monthly* cavalcade of the *swarthy sexton*, moving to the funereal tune of "more grists to the mill," shall invade the "horrid silence" which reigns around. No stone shall tell where ye lie, but an occasional epitaph, in suitable prose, shall record your untimely fates, and serve, as a beacon, to warn future aspirants for fame of the danger of scribbling.

Alas! COPLAND! it grieves us to think, that thou, too noble spirit, must find thy dormitory, and though thy great practice may have rendered grave digging "a property of easiness," some less accomplished *artist* may perform for thee the rites of sepulture; and, in spite of thy "most excellent fancy," thou mayest be "knocked about the mazard with a sexton's spade," in the shape of a critique, probably, too, by a pettifogger of the London school, who may never have enjoyed the blessings of "a regular education," about which thou hast talked so much, but which thou hast demonstrated to be of little value by the vagaries into which it has led thee. Ah! friend COPLAND, the curse of dullness is upon thee, and although in thy solitude thou mayest chaunt "Exegi monumentum," rest assured that it is altogether based in air, and that it needs not the "edax vetustas" to obliterate all remembrance of such a "pretender" to future fame. "Cloud-compelling"* genius that thou would'st fain appear—"Jupiter tonans," that thou art in thy own estimation, it is generally acknowledged that thy thunder is symphonous with the braying of an ass;* and we have long been accustomed to consider thy lucubrations as a counterpart to the productions of poor mad Lee—"Rise, Jupiter, and snuff the moon," being much of a piece with a manifesto from the advocate of the "Dead." But a truce to digression.

You will recollect, *friend* COPLAND, that in our last number we extracted a *few of the beauties* which are crowded, with a profusion almost amounting to profligacy, into the pages of your last *Mausoleum* (and don't you admire the idea?) We now propose to take a glance at the remainder,

> "To mark how well the sequel
> hangs together."

We were speaking of a specimen by Mr. ALEXANDER RENNIE, which wants novelty to recommend it and more correct reasoning to render it intelligible. This man reasons, or rather we should say, *attempts* to reason, on the subject of tubercles in the lungs, and the efficacy of curative, or natural processes, in effecting their removal. He first says, tha 50,000 persons a year die of pulmonary diseases, and he has probably much underrated the number. He continues:—"In every individual case of this solemn catalogue, more or less of medical skill has been resorted to and found unavailing," and then de-

* Homer is authority for this word.

* Tenuere te asinum tantum.—THE. Asinus rudens.—OVID.
Journal of the West Med. Soc.

nies "that the consumptive disorders are as really beyond the reach of remedy as morbid anatomists have declared."—p. 374.

So that fifty thousand persons per annum die of pulmonary disease, in spite of medical skill, and in accordance with the opinions of morbid anatomists, without being on this account "beyond the reach of remedies," which is truly lamentable, when we take into account besides, that no one "can limit the powers of *vitalised texture* in self restoration." He goes on—"The *conclusion*, at all events, is that tubercles, or ulcerations of the lungs, are incapable of restoration, is founded only upon *indirect induction*, and amounts, in fact, to nothing but *conjecture*—a conjecture, however, it must be confessed, founded on a very wide basis of observation." Now, according to the author's own showing, it is impossible that the *conclusion* can be *founded* upon *indirect induction*, for although, in medicine, direct proof cannot always be obtained, the fatal termination of 50,000 cases, annually, surely furnishes the clearest evidence (and it is quite *demonstrative*) that the *conclusion* cannot be *founded upon indirect induction*; for where there is nothing to be *inferred*, there can be no *induction*, either correct or false; and as to the result, to use his own phrase, "we know it already—Death has occurred—Means have been baffled—It is saying nothing at all."—p. 375.

The following sentence is remarkably lucid and clever:—"Digitalis, or prussic acid, to reduce the pulse and *unnerve* the stomach; sulph. magnes. to evacuate the bowels and reduce *fever*, and milk and vegetables to *prevent it*."—p. 380.

Again:—"The *practical principle* here suggested" (what do you suppose comes next, gentle reader?) "is the unfavourable *influence of debility* induced by excessive depletion in pulmonary cases."—p. 382.

"The practical *principle* then is the *influence* of debility," which is so far from being a *practical* principle, that it is no *principle* at all; but probably it is what LOCKE calls "a particular matter of fact," of which, however, we profess at most to have but a very imperfect notion—we had almost said none at all. Mr. RENNIE, nevertheless, may have a clearer head; and to his mind it may be a very *luminous proposition!*

The author, however, seems to know something of geometry, with its cycloids, peripheries, and abscissæ, at least he actually speaks of the *circle*, its *centre*, and its *circumference*, which is a proof that he is not *entirely* ignorant of this logical science.

He is speaking of invigorating diet: "The aid which is afforded," says he, "in this way to the *propulsive circulating energy* from the *centre to the circumference* is, of itself, calculated materially to relieve the lungs." He has heard of the *circulation* of the blood, ergo (as an old mathematician said of fire), it must move in a *circle!* Prodigious! Who would have thought that the great HARVEY should not have stumbled on so sublime a discovery.

"Cycle, and epicycle, orb in orb,"

hypotheses banished from astronomy, are at length domiciled in the human body by the overwhelming genius of RENNIE! Alas! however, as Captain MACMORRIS says, "tish ill done, tish ill done; by my hand, tish ill done!"

Then comes the following:—"It is not *plethora* that is injurious, for very moderate depletion is adequate to correct this state; but it is undue *diffusion of the circulation* over the system"!!!

We have no inclination to exhibit a sample of the physiology which succeeds this precious *morceau*; but he proceeds to argue, that by "extensive depletion existing *organic congestion*, instead of being restored, is permanently maintained, and by consequence also, *local morbid action* depending on that state" (viz. of organic congestion). "It is all very *right*," says he, "to reduce *acute inflammatory action* in which the circulation generally and locally has been, by morbid causes, excited to *activity greatly beyond power*; but in *detracting from the existing impetus* of the fluids by *venesection*, it is to be recollected that *abstraction also is made from power*, ("debilitating depletion"!) *since that is removed which is essential to the support of vital power*; and I hold it, therefore, to be an incontrovertible *physiological axiom*, that after every *depletion* which *urgent circumstances* render necessary, the *animal system presents an immediate claim for equivalent nourishment*; and in the absence of such necessary supplies ("debilitating starvation"!) to *renovate* the powers. *Action beyond power continues unarrested*, i.e. existing fever is complicated with debility."—p. 384. Oh Copland! Copland! Lucifer, Son of the Morning, how art thou fallen!

We have now done, or rather, as a cotemporary says, "*just about* done," as there are a few further observations which it would be a sin to withhold from our readers.

"That diet," says he, "must be the best which is capable of imparting the greatest *degree of vital power to the various textures*, as well as to the *blood itself*." So that it is not the blood which *imparts vital power to the various textures!*—Oh, no; by Mr. RENNIE's "*circulation from the centre to the circumference*," it happens in some other way. The *diet* "*imparts vital power to the various textures*," and actually, as it would appear, sometimes condescends to move through the thoracic duct to mix itself with and renovate the "vital current." This, however, from the reasoning of Mr. RENNIE, is by no means a common occurrence, for he would appear to assume, that the "various textures" nourish the blood rather than that the blood performs this charitable office for the various textures.

Of the author's cases (of which there are several), we shall say nothing, because, in reality, they offer nothing new.* On his remarks we have been liberal, perhaps *too liberal!* for in all the indigestible crudities that have met our eye, we have seen

* In one instance, however, he sent the patient, *who was much reduced*, into the country, with directions for his conduct; among others, "to be in the *open air*, *on horseback*, *from morning till evening*, in fine weather."

nothing to equal in absurdity the lucubrations of Mr. Alexander Rennie, surgeon, &c. His *practical principles*, as far as any *principles* can be discovered, are those of MORTON and PITCAIRN, BOERHAAVE and HOFFMAN, although it must not be inferred that he has read any of these authors. One word more; from the manner in which he speaks of "*the morbid anatomists*" we should certainly infer, that they are to him what Jesuits appear to Sir Thomas Lethbridge, viz. a most alarming but non-descript species of the "featherless biped." The author's allusions to "*the* morbid anatomists" would lead us to conclude, that the "book of nature" is to him a sealed volume—that morbid anatomy has formed, at best, but an inconsiderable part of his studies.

In the Mausoleum for January, there is a case of preternatural presentation, by a surgeon at Preston, in which the treatment appears to have been most *satisfactory—to himself*. *One* foot presented, or rather *was made* to present, and, says the operator, "upon this foot I used considerable extractive force, almost to the separation of the ligamentous attachment of the malleoli from the subjacent bones, without producing any further descent of the extremity." At last, "with *great pulling*, during several pains," he brought down the other foot; but "notwithstanding the employment of much extractive force, he was foiled in effecting a further descension of the fœtus." "On examining," says he, "what I had been for *some time* regarding as the *breech* of the child, I now found to be the *head*, which was brought *low down into* the vagina;"—the pulsation of the cord having ceased, he sent for his midwifery instruments, and "with his midwifery instruments, and "with great care opened the head and scooped out the brains," after which the child was delivered. He had given to the woman the ergot of rye, after which, says he, "the force of the pains (which had previously been trifling) was astonishingly great." And "after rupturing the membranes" felt, what he *considered* to be, "the right foot of the fœtus *on the pubic side of the superior outlet of the pelvis*;" this he "now endeavoured to *bring down*, and with *some difficulty* succeeded in getting it just without the os externum." He then commenced with the extractive force above described. We shall not venture to express an opinion on the treatment adopted in this case, *sub judice lis est*, and our readers will therefore excuse us for leaving it entirely with them to decide on its merits. The mother recovered, or, as the author expresses it, "the *recovery* of the patient *has been most favourable*."

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN MEDICAL JOURNALS.

ARCHIVES GENERALES—MARCH.

ACUPUNCTURE.

Reflections on the nature of the action of Acupuncture.

Are the therapeutic phenomena produced by acupuncture attributable to the existence of an electric current, or are they only the results of a degree of counter irritation produced by the introduction of the needle? The

solution of the first question requires that we should enter a little on the consideration of the influence of electricity.

It is thought that electricity, or a fluid analogous to it, exercises an important influence on organised bodies. Two celebrated physiologists have shown, by the most delicate and ingenious experiments, that contractility is entirely owing to electricity By placing under a microscope some muscular fibres, and causing a current of electricity to pass through them, it was observed that the fibres displayed an undulatory motion, and contracted at different angles. The nervous system forms a complete circle, pervaded by an imperceptible fluid, the exact nature of which it is difficult to determine, whether it be named nervous, galvanic, electric, or electro-magnetic. The encephalon is the grand reservoir of this power, and the nerves are the conductors of it. These cords appear, from the experiments of MAGENDIE, to convey a fluid very analogous to that of electricity, and it appears that their conducting power is greater toward their surface than in their centre. The following experiment proves that the electric fluid exercises an important part in the performance of the functions of the various organs. Place the organs of taste and of sight within the reach of an electric conductor, and sensations will be produced analogous to that naturally produced by these parts. The eye will see luminous sparks, and the tongue will convey the sensation of taste; but that which appears to establish an identity between the electric and nervous fluids is, that the former can be made a substitute for the latter, as is seen in cases of asphyxy. The experiment of WILSON is well known, and other experiments have been more recently made which confirm the opinions of that physiologist. The nerves passing to the stomach have been divided, the extremities of the divided nerves being kept in contact, digestion continued, but when they were separated digestion ceased.

These experiments, and a multitude of others which might be cited, appear to authorize the opinion, that the nervous fluid is identical with the electric; but does that explain the phenomena of acupuncture? Does this fluid escape by the metallic needle?

The following experiments, which have been made with great care, and which may be easily repeated by any physician, prove that the needles being placed in contact with the tissues of the body do not disengage any electric fluid, or at least it cannot be detected by the delicate galvanometre of SCHWEIGGER. Implant a needle of gold, of silver, or of platina into the carotid artery of a dog; implant another made of one of these metals into the jugular vein; connect them by some electric conductor, and attach to this conductor a magnetic needle, and it will not show the least deviation. The needles are directed to be placed in these points because physiologists have supposed that the galvanic, or electric current, is found in excess in the arterial circulation. If it be objected to this experiment, that the two structures into which the needles were inserted have not an equal conductive power, such objection cannot be made against the following, which was made at St. Louis, on a rabbit, and afterwards repeated on a dog:—Two needles, made of a metal not oxydable, or at least supposed not to be so, were inserted into the spinal marrow of a rabbit, and a communication made between them by an electric conductor, but the magnetic needle remained immoveable. The same experiments were repeated with needles made of oxydable metals, and it was found that the magnetic needle was influenced in a decided manner, which shows that the phenomena of the deviation of the needle is produced only by the oxydization of the needles.

It does not appear, therefore, that the needle disengages, or conducts away, any electric fluid from the tissue into which it is inserted. The only phenomena observable consequent on its introduction, is a reddish areola about the part; an oscillatory contraction of the muscles, accompanied by a pain more or less severe. It was observed in one case, and only one, that after the needle had been introduced into the thigh of a patient, at La Pitié, about ten minutes, at the time when the areola began to form,

that when the needle was touched by another person a slight shock, similar to that communicated by the voltaic pile, was felt. If it was touched too frequently, the power of giving this shock was destroyed, but it recovered the power in the space of a few minutes. This is a solitary case, nothing parallel to it has been observed, although the attention has been particularly directed to it.

But if the means usually employed has failed to detect the existence of an electric current, can the phenomena exhibited by acupuncture be attributed to the oxydization of the metal? This has been the current opinion of late, but which it appears easy to refute. If they were attributable to oxydization, they would only be present when needles were introduced capable of becoming oxydized, but similar phenomena are produced when needles not oxydable are used. It is known that the Chinese use only gold needles, and what wonders have they not wrought by acupuncture!

Acupuncture, on the whole, appears to be merely a mode of producing a certain degree of excitement in a part, which modifies the excess of sensibility by changing the mode of action of the nerves; and that it in all cases acts as a *revulsif*, or a counter irritant, in removing the local pain. Many observations, founded on facts, appear to favour this opinion.

1. The impossibility of explaining the therapeutical phenomena by the existence of an electric, galvanic, or electro magnetic current, or by oxydation.

2. The needle, as it passes through the nervous and vascular net-work of the skin, produces pain to a greater or less degree—that cannot be denied. This pain is succeeded by an areola of inflammation.

3. M. PELLETAN has observed, that when the parts pricked give much pain, the efficacy of acupuncture is more prompt and decided.

4. That by it, the needles act as blisters, and other counter irritants; when introduced for several days in succession for the removal of certain rheumatic or other pains, they must be regarded in the same light as blisters.

5. From the observation made at La Pitié, that acupuncture is a very potent remedy for such neuralgies, rheumatisms, and other affections as have an erratic character.

6. That acupuncture does not succeed in removing such affections as are preceded or accompanied by general excitement.

7. That in the greatest number of chronic irritations, the introduction of the needle will succeed when that irritation is not attended with any serious injury of the organ.

8. It has been observed, that the revulsion of acupuncture does not succeed so well in a robust individual, or if the organ on which it is employed forms an important part of the animal economy, as the lungs, liver, and stomach.

9. It has been also observed, that when the pains, or neuralgies, extend over a great surface, that acupuncture has no influence; and that it produces, sometimes, nervous symptoms, when the patients on whom it has been used have been very irritable.

Such are the ingenious investigations of an intelligent French physician on the *modus operandi* of acupuncture; it is the best attempt at an explanation that we have hitherto met with. A good humoured friend of ours, who practised formerly in the country, performed divers cures of chronic neuralgies by acupuncture, to the astonishment of all the old women in the neighbourhood. To the numerous inquiries daily made, "how can these things be?" he gave the following laconic answer, "that it all happened by letting out the wind." This explanation gave perfect satisfaction, and perhaps we may adopt it with as much propriety as any other which has yet been offered.

Semeiology of the Tongue.

Is the state of the Tongue a faithful index of that of the Stomach and Intestines?—A young physician of Gentilly, M. REIGNERE, has, in his inaugural thesis, undertaken to prove that it is not. According to him, it is not rare to see a complete want of relation between them; a complete discordance even in those cases in which the greatest harmony has been supposed hitherto to exist. "At all times,"

says BROUSSAIS, "when the edges of the tongue, and especially the point, are red, the stomach is labouring under a certain degree of inflammation." This aphorism M. R. has attempted to combat, and, by the facts adduced, he thinks he has fully established,—1. That the stomach may be in the most perfect health when the tongue is red, dry, or fuliginous. 2. That the tongue may preserve its ordinary appearance during the existence of a very severe gastritis. 3. That very frequently, when the tongue and stomach present simultaneously traces of inflammation, there is such disproportion in their intensity that it is impossible to imagine that the one can be the effect of the other. The error of generalising this idea must be avoided; and we must not suppose, that because the state of the tongue does not *always* correspond to that of the stomach, that it *never* does so.

Gazette de Santé, April 25.

Monstrosity.— An animal without a head, and having only one foot.

A creature of this description has been produced by a goat, having merely a left posterior extremity. It was entirely covered by long shaggy hair, and was of an irregular oblong shape, round at one end and terminated in a curved tapering manner at the other. Laterally, and near the greater extremity, the umbilicus was distinctly observable, as was the chord attached to it; a little lower was a fleshy tubercle, similar to a teat, and more in front a small cleft, resembling the opening of the eyelids, the border of which was covered by a thin epidermis. A transverse incision was made through this mass, when the other posterior extremity was discovered complete (with the exception of the patella, and a little variety in the phalanges) entirely enveloped by the integuments. Some vessels and nerves appeared to supply two extensive muscles in front of the thigh bone. The nerves arose from a kind of ganglion, having origin in the cleft, or fissure before mentioned, and which also appeared to give rise to the spinal marrow, protected by imperfectly-formed vertebræ, and surrounded by a membrane similar to the dura mater.

REGULAR PHYSICIANS GRINDING!

"Surely where information fails, the confession of ignorance ought to commence; since gowns, and big wigs, and golden-headed canes, and all the external trumpery of the art and mystery of physic have now passed away. Nothing, in short, remains but the mystery of words, that cloak and covering of the mind, which the progress of knowledge will soon remove. But I once more repeat, the cause of death in such cases is clear to those who understand the principles, the precise principles, of modern pathology, which have not yet found their way into some long established colleges and schools, where pride and prejudice, and dulness and darkness, exult in the mockery of an old charter, which is despised by all pure and independent minds."—Vide Dr. ARMSTRONG'S Lectures, Lancet, vol. VII. p. 35.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for your Hebdomadal. As one of the profession I cannot sufficiently express my obligations for the gratification it affords me to read the lectures of my old master, of whom I never think but with veneration, and whose public services at St. Thomas's Theatre would have been for ever lost to the world but for your publication. I wish you had begun your Editorial career in the days of Dr. JAMES CURRIE, that we might have been put in possession of that able Lecturer's lucubrations. I know, and I think he himself knew, that he had a favourite hobby, and who has not? Sir ASTLEY COOPER had, and Mr. ABERNETHY has.—Pardon the digression, rather awkwardly placed I grant, at the very head and front of my communication.

I am delighted, Mr. Editor, with your reports of Dr. ARMSTRONG'S Lectures, and sincerely hope, that the mind of that gentleman is too much enlightened to interfere, or attempt to interfere, with your publishing them. So far from diminishing the respectability of Sir ASTLEY COOPER and Dr. ARMSTRONG, your able reports have raised my estimation for

those gentlemen, in so much, that I should the more confidently consult them in their respective departments, rather than any others with whose principles and practice I have not the same opportunity of being acquainted; and I verily believe that the LANCET, so far from tending to lessen the number of their pupils, would occasion an annual increase of their classes, so long as they should think proper to hold the distinguished offices of public teachers. I do not say so of all whose lectures you have reported egad.

My motto tells us, that pride and prejudice, darkness and dulness, have yet their haunts: from the same source however, (thanks to Dr. ARMSTRONG,) we are led to hope that the progress of knowledge will soon remove the cloaks and coverings of the mind. But is it really true, as you tell us, that "The Society of Physicians of the united kingdom" is defunct? Did it come to its death naturally, by the visitation of ——, or by an act of *felo de se*? You are bound, Mr. Editor, by the nature of your engagements to the public, to communicate all you know about it, so far as it is right to make it known. I could find it in my heart, if not at my fingers' ends, supposing the society dead, were it not for the *nil nisi*, to write something about that late imposing body. I will content myself, however, with calling your attention to that undefined phrase, 'Regularly educated Physicians,' which has been so unaccountably bandied about of late, by, most probably, the sons of darkness and dulness. This is the more desirable, as I find that a great advocate for national education, (a most exclusive and shamelessly sectarian measure by the bye,) the champion for the education of the labouring classes, (which object cannot be too much recommended,) but a little time previous to his installation as Lord Rector of Glasgow, seemed to have espoused the cause of the clamorous regulars, and to have joined them in the use of that senseless art and mystery of words, beyond what, *à priori*, his known good sense would have led us to expect. Have the goodness, Mr. Editor, to inform us, who are these *soi-disant* Regulars. I shall presume, for my argument's sake, the term is meant to designate those who have gone through the routine of college studies, and college examinations, on the other side of the Tweed. Of course our English University men are not included in the controversy, for although nobody thinks of studying Physic in the more southern latitudes of this island, Oxford and Cambridge men occupy a sphere at a great remove from our cloudy atmosphere; no one questions their regular education.

In pity, Mr. Editor, to some who practise *mystery*, and to others who think they have an indisputable right to practise as physicians, sift this subject to the bottom. You are aware that Mr. Brougham, or, I should say, the Lord Rector of Glasgow, before his installation (a man whom I never like to see on the wrong side of a question), in his place in the House of Commons, when speaking about the Scotch Universities, gave it as his opinion, that those of Aberdeen and St. Andrew's were very naughty, and seemed to imply, that they ought to be whipped for granting diplomas to practitioners of medicine, however deserving, who have not undergone the usual ordeal—in other words, *grinding*. The learned gentleman does not appear to have used this cant term, but we all know this must be meant, as a degree in medicine cannot be obtained in some of the other long established Universities without it.

From these premises it should seem, that a young man fresh from the shop of an apothecary, and even in some instances that have occurred, from the warehouse, ignorant perhaps of every thing but the mere compounding of nostrums, after learning to dance one year in Paris,* studying, or seeming to study a second year in Edinburgh, and grinding during a third term, is admirably qualified as a regularly educated physician—having therefore gone through his catechism

* Attendance on the medical schools in Paris, attested by certificate, enables the Edinburgh student to reckon one year in advance towards a degree. *Bonâ fide* studies in London, for any length of time, go for nothing.

at the instance of the faculty, he receives his diploma, as his authority, accordingly. I ask gravely, is any thing more necessary to constitute one of these regularly educated physicians? Observe, my remarks are on the system, and are not intended to apply to a great number of physicians regularly educated, who are the *Decus et tutamen* of the profession.

As every system is liable to abuse, I should not have entered on this subject at all, but that some of these Edinburgh graduates, assuming to themselves all the wisdom and knowledge of the faculty, as this body is called, superciliously look down on their brethren, who, for education, standing in practice, and general respectability of character, are in no whit behind any one of them.

I will suppose an instance, and that not a singular one, nor of rare occurrence, by way of example. I know a gentleman who, at the age of fourteen, was apprenticed in a most respectable establishment in London, where he became extensively acquainted with every article in the Materia Medica, both in its simple and compound form, and where, during a great part of that time, he was in the constant habit of compounding and prescribing medicines. On the expiration of his time, he entered on the practice and lectures of the united hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas's. There, during three sessions, he was the pupil of CLINE and COOPER, then in the hey-day of their practice,—of Doctors BABINGTON, CURRIE, and CHOLMELEY. He studied chemistry under the late lamented Dr. MARCET and WILLIAM ALLEN, and attended the very able lectures of the latter gentleman on Natural Philosophy. Dr. HAIGHTON was his preceptor in the principles and practice of midwifery; Mr. JOSEPH FOX initiated him in an acquaintance with the diseases and operations of the teeth; Dr. THORNTON was his instructor in botany. To these it may be added, he attended the demonstrations in anatomy given by the excellent Mr. SAUNDERS, and subsequently by Mr. TRAVERS.

His education, regular enough, I think, did not stop here; he had the honour of being a dresser at Guy's to Mr. (now Sir ASTLEY) COOPER; and at the end of the third session, or perhaps I should say season, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

I pass over the intermediate period of almost twenty years, during which he has been in practice, and has had opportunities of improving himself in his profession beyond those of many. I ask if this gentleman should think proper to restrict himself to any one branch of the healing art, and prefers practising as a physician, what rational objection could be made to it? If he wished to obtain a degree in medicine, what is he to do? Must he set off for Edinburgh, matriculate, pay the customary fees to the professors, wait till the third or fourth year, and then grind? What security, as to his competency, would the public have by this procedure? Is he willing, even at this period, to go through the catechism of sciences before the faculty of the University, will he be admitted on this basis? Certainly not. Can he practise as a physician, without a diploma? This is not to be done. What therefore remains? He must continue in general practice, or he must retire altogether, or he must apply for a diploma, submitting his credentials, which are sufficiently ample, to the University of Aberdeen or St. Andrew. Let me ask another question, and the "regulars" may answer it, or the Lord Rector of Glasgow himself. Is not this man more likely to deserve the honours that a University can confer than a stripling of twenty-four years, who can know but little beyond what he has acquired of his grinder, and needs no more? Could this experienced practitioner, educated in the first school in the world, under the greatest ornaments of the age, have been more regularly educated in any other school? Must his education be deemed incomplete, and his extensive experience go for nothing, until he has paid over again the fees of office, and submitted to the prostitution of time, during a period of three or four years, and to the degradation of his own mind, by grinding?

Surely, Mr. Editor, were it not a grave subject, one might laugh to think, that a young man just passed his minority might, by *a mechanical process*, get up a thesis, and grind himself into an M.D., whilst a man of the most extensive education and long practice, who has been educated in London rather than in Edinburgh, and who has legally obtained a degree from Aberdeen, instead of Edinburgh or Glasgow, is to be regarded as an irregularly educated physician. The expense of a medical education is here out of the question, it being well known that the fees of attendance, and living in London are greater; and that the graduating fee at either of the Universities of the North, is about the same,—viz. nearer 30*l.* than 15*l.*, as mentioned by Mr. Brougham in the House.

If you do not take up this subject, Mr. Editor, and protect the *quasi* irregular regularly-educated physicians, after all the well directed efforts of Dr. ARMSTRONG, we may yet be condemned to a visitation from the gowns and big wigs of antiquity, and feel the more than magic influence of the gold-headed canes of the advocates of darkness.

We have heard much of late of the degenerated state of the medical profession. How is this to be accounted for? Are not as many regularly ground M.D's thrown off annually on the world as heretofore? If the latter question be answered affirmatively, will this explain the cause? Or is it owing to the before-named mal-practices of the more northern Universities? In truth I am not inclined to think that the profession is more degenerate, I most heartily concur in the sentiment of Sir ASTLEY COOPER on this subject,* who says, "it is consolatory to know that the human frame is better understood at the present epoch by *students*, than it was forty years ago by *professors*. The march of improvement has been most rapid." * I much suspect, Sir, that the croaking has originated with the would-be-lights of the world, and that the unnatural efforts which have been made to protect favoured schools, and self-favouring partizans, have tended much to bring the odium which exists, if there be any, on the profession. I regret the withdrawment of Sir ASTLEY COOPER from the Borough School; he retires, however, full of honours. Let us hope that men will be found with equal zeal for the education of our medical students, to follow up those principles which he, during many years, so ably inculcated.

Admitting for a moment, and that for argument sake only, that a man who has graduated at Edinburgh, after grinding, is the most regularly educated, and that it is a desideratum that all who practise as physicians should, in the first place, grind *secundum artem*. Why not establish a university in London, for the purposes of college education, and for the conferring of degrees? The consequence of such a measure would be, that few of our English students would then go to the north at all, except on the score of saving expence. If, however, we cannot have an university in the British metropolis, where medical students may graduate, let the pupils of the first medical schools be allowed to enter any one of the Scotch Universities, and let them be received as candidates for the *doctorate*, which should be granted to them as the result of successful examination in *real attainments*. Let them be examined in every branch connected with the profession, wherever they may have studied. It is a mere farce to pretend that a man cannot be regularly educated as a medical practitioner in England or in Scotland, and it is worse than a farce to presume that a man is qualified to preside in a consultation with his medical brethren because he has been drilled for a few months to the answering of questions

* "I have probably known ten thousand members of the faculty in the course of my professional life, and to their partiality I attribute my successful progress, more than to any merit of my own; and I should be wanting in gratitude if I did not acknowledge it."—*Lancet*, vol. i. p. 9.

* Lancet, vol. i. p. 5.

on medical science in Scotch Latin. A man who is willing to be examined as to his attainments in his profession, is as fair a candidate for the *summi honores* as he who knows nothing scarcely of the principles or practice of physic, beyond that which he has acquired of his drill serjeant. A man who can pass through an examination thus instituted, is as really regularly educated, as one who has been twelve years on the books of an English University, or four, or three, or two on those of a University in Scotland. I shall not add to the length of this paper, but by quoting from the letter of a student now at Edinburgh, to show that the system of grinding is no less irksome than it is degrading, even to those young men who are regularly educated. I do it the more readily, as I am confident it expresses the sentiments of a large number of most respectable men, who have been regularly educated, and I now assure you, Mr. Editor, it is the language of a youth with as fine talents, and of as much assiduity in his studies, as ever crossed the Tweed. I would that you should consider his statement as an appeal to public opinion, on behalf of those who are compelled to a more intolerable burden than was ever inflicted by the Scribes and Pharisees of old. He thus writes :—

"Next year comes the drudgery of grinding; I shudder at the thoughts of the prostitution of time and talent which the most distinguished students are obliged to undergo. I'd rather, I'll be hanged, drive bolts into a ship's keel three hours in the day, than undergo this merciless torment. I shall be pestered with the thoughts of the waste of time to no possible ultimate profit, and to the entire degradation of the profession, which is necessary, ere a man can be judged worthy of the *summi honores Collegiæ Edinburgensis.*"

I will not add to this extract, lest I diminish its effect, but subscribe myself, yours,

R. H. F.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

Sir Astley Cooper has at length resigned the situation which he has for so many years filled, with honour to himself and with edification to thousands. We should feel sorry in recording this circumstance if we thought that Sir Astley had wholly withdrawn himself from the Borough school; this, however, we are glad to learn, is not the case; as a consulting surgeon he will still continue to visit Guy's, and that as frequently, in all probability, as he has of late been enabled to do. His occasional presence will tend to consolidate and support the interests of a school which, for surgery, justly ranks the first in the United Kingdom, and we shall not, perhaps, be saying too much, if we express our conviction, that the talent at present engaged there is fully sufficient to support the high character to which that school has already attained.

The resignation of the office of Surgeon has been made in favour of Mr. Bransby Cooper, Sir Astley's nephew. As a surgeon, we know very little of Mr. Bransby, but, if he have made a diligent use of the opportunities afforded him, he cannot be a bad operator; we do not expect to find him such, and we hope that he will sustain the reputation attached to the name of Cooper. We shall not shut our eyes to the merits of individuals, or wink at the defects of others, but shall continue to do as we have hitherto done, fearlessly to ex-

pose or commend when and whom we consider necessary.

Our reports from the principal London Hospitals will be more extended than they have lately been, and in all our intercourse with these institutions we shall adopt, as our motto,

"*In omnibus veritas.*"

The only operations performed here this week were the amputation of a lower extremity by Mr. KEY, and an amputation, below the knee, by Mr. BRANSBY COOPER. A circular incision was made through the integuments, about six inches below the patella, and the tibia and fibula were divided two inches higher up. Three arteries, the anterior and posterior tibial and fibular, were secured, and the operation performed in a neat manner.

The accidents admitted this week are—two cases of simple fracture of the fibula; injuries to the back, ancle, and sternum; retention of urine, and fracture of the os humeri.

BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

On Saturday last, Mr. LAWRENCE performed the operation of lithotomy; the stone was extracted in a very short time, and was composed of the triple phosphate.

Extirpation of the Eye.

The patient who submitted to this operation was a middle-aged man, a native of Erin. The disease had existed for many months, but had not produced that violent constitutional disturbance which such enlargement and destructive disorganizing process usually occasions. The disease was of that kind called *melanosis oculi*, generally confounded with the *fungus hæmatodes*. The operator was Mr. LAWRENCE, who performed the extirpation in a very short time and in a skilful manner.

The only other operation for the week was the removal of a finger by Mr. VINCENT.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

Singular case of Spasmodic Affection of the Muscles of the Neck.

Mary Preston, the subject of this affection, was admitted into the Hospital on 25th of January, as a patient of Dr. HAWKINS's, but was subsequently removed into the Surgeon's Ward, and placed under the care of Mr. BELL.

In this case, the head is strongly drawn towards the left side, and indeed, if not supported by the hand, would fall upon the shoulder. The sterno-cleido-mastoideus appears to be the principal muscle in action; in addition to drawing the head downward and forward, it produces a half rotatary motion, although it is probable that other rotator muscles are acting irregularly at the same time. The head is first drawn down to the shoulder and then rotated to the right side, and these motions alternate upon attempting to raise the head from the shoulder. Great resistance is offered by the muscles; they contract very powerfully and feel very rigid, at the same time occasioning much pain to the patient. She is a remarkably healthy looking young woman, about the age of 20; her general health is not affected by the complaint, under which she states herself to have laboured nearly two years.

After her recovery from a very difficult labour, she first perceived a slight "drawing down" of the head to the left side, which has gone on gradually increasing to its present state. At the time of her admission into the hospital, she complained of pain in the head, and also down the inner side of the left arm, in the course of the ulnar nerve; this was relieved by the application of leeches to the temples and a blister to the nape of the neck, but the spasmodic action of the muscles remained unsubdued.

A few weeks since she had an attack of scarlet fever, for which she was transferred to the Physician's Ward, and during that period she vomited, at different times, four lumbrici.

An attempt has been made, by means of an instrument, to support

the head, but it occasioned so much pain by increasing the spastic action of the muscles, and also by the pressure of the bandage, that it was found impossible to continue it. With a view of dislodging the worms, she has taken ol. terebinth. and other strong purgatives. An ointment, composed of ext. belladonnæ and opium mixed with lard, has been rubbed in upon the muscles of the left side of the neck, but without producing any sensible effect upon the state of the muscles.

This is a very interesting case, as regards the pathological condition, on which this spastic action of the muscles depends.* Mr. BELL considers the disease to be in the spinal accessory nerve, which thus excites the sterno-cleido-mastoidens and trapezius muscles to spasmodic action. This opinion appears to us ill founded, as other muscles, besides those just enumerated, act irregularly. And again, these muscles, the sterno-cleido-mastoidens and trapezius, are not entirely supplied by the spinal accessory nerve. We have frequently had occasion to notice the *very ingenious manner* in which Mr. Bell perverts facts, in order to meet his own particular views of a case. The circumstance of worms being vomited leads us to adopt the idea, that the disease depends upon some distant cause irritating the nerves. We have a striking illustration of the influence of a remote irritation in many cases of chorea, in producing irregular actions of the muscular system and epilepsy, which yield to purgatives and other remedies which dislodge the worms.

Does this spasmodic action and rigidity of the muscles arise from a paralysed state of the nerves supplying the antagonist muscles? as we know that muscles become rigid when antagonized. We shall carefully watch this case, and report upon any change that may occur.

* In Vol. VI. of Haller's "*Disputationes Anatomicæ Selectiones*," is an interesting case of distorted neck of a female, by Winslow.

The accidents admitted this week are—a case of fractured tibia and fibula; a simple fracture of the tibia; and a fatal wound of the trachea; with other accidents of minor importance.

A report was maliciously circulated at the West end of the town, a few days since, that Mr. JOE BURNS was thrown out of a cabriolet, in *South Audley-street*, and that he *fortunately* fell upon his *head*. His friends, however, will be gratified to hear that there is *nothing in it*.

Want of room compels us to omit a part of our Hospital Reports, as well as our Notice to Correspondents.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LANCET.

SIR,

IN your last Number there is a Letter from Mr. READ, a manufacturer of Patent Valve Syringes, which has somewhat surprised me. In that confident and boastful tone which but ill conceals the anger of a disappointed man he has made assertions which expose him to so much animadversion, that I really think in a cooler moment he would not have ventured upon them. Three causes may be assigned for this rash and violent effort to sustain the sinking reputation of his Valve Syringe.

1st. He knows that the attention of the Public has been lately directed to a new Patent Syringe without valves.

2dly. He knows that this new Patent Syringe without valves does not require to be held at an angle of forty-five degrees, which will puzzle a good many to find out.

3dly. He knows that the pipes of this new Syringe without valves do not require to be shifted backwards and forwards when the liquid is taken out of the stomach.

Baffled by these three important points of superiority over his own machine, which, if he could fairly overcome them, would renew his claim for that laurel to which he so fondly allludes, as awarded to him by one of our most eminent Surgeons, he has had recourse to an evasive subterfuge, which I shall presently expose; and he then puts a question "to every man of mechanical genius," whether the construction of an hydraulic instrument, applicable to the purposes specified, is not allowed to be derived from valves.

Having had some experience as a mechanic, I shall make so bold, in answer to this question, as to declare my opinion, that wherever valves can be dispensed with, such possibility is an advantage of the greatest importance. If, after being used for the injection of any glutinous substance, the instrument be laid aside for a time, it will be found that the substance in drying will have clogged up the valve; and to prove this, I have to state, (as a practical mechanic,) that I have, with my own hands, made ball-cocks above thirty years ago, which were used for hydrocele, and which I have no doubt will be recollected by every professional gentleman of long experience. Why are such instruments no longer made? Because it was found, that after port wine had been injected, some of the liquid remained in the ball-cock, and after the instrument had lain by a short time, the ball would not freely act. For this reason, the ball-cock was discontinued, its use being superseded by that of the common cock. This reasoning will surely be satisfactory to a man who professes so highly to appreciate common sense, and may induce him, after a little calm consideration, to abstain from ascribing the merit of a new invention to an instrument which experience has shown to be erroneous in principle, and defective in operation. He will then comprehend the only interpretation which can be given of the well-meant, though premature, compliment of an eminent practitioner, which he has so often quoted, "Sir, you may send your instrument to the end of the world; it will never require the maker!!" Certainly it will never require the maker, because it will exhibit faults inherent in the principles of its construction, and therefore beyond his skill to repair.

As the Patent Syringe without valves, which I have had the satisfaction to introduce, is founded on a *different* principle, it certainly cannot be called, and never has been called by me, an improved imitation of his instrument; and therefore I feel warranted in regarding the mention which he has made of it, in his letter, as an evasive subterfuge. Let him have the candour to come forward and call them rival instruments, and I shall be quite happy to leave the question of their superiority to be decided by the Profession and the Public at large.

With regard to his own instrument, after the explanation I have given of the ball-cock, long ago used for hydrocele, it will be for other people to judge how far his *patent*, which he intends to vindicate in a court of justice, will stand good in law, when the instrument proves to be not worth copying. At all events he may console himself with the reflection that his improved syringe, as he calls it, may be found fully adapted for the other uses for which he recommends it—the watering of cabbages, and the washing of cherry trees; its application to the purposes of a fire engine is an affair which may be left to the consideration of the firemen of the different Insurance Companies.

Wishing the manufacturer of Valve Syringes all manner of good, and especially a little better temper,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

62, Strand. JOHN WEISS.

Note.—I would recommend any gentleman who may wish to buy a Syringe to inspect every invention, and he will then judge for himself

Just Published, by LONGMAN and Co.

AN ESSAY ON CURVATURES AND DISEASES OF THE SPINE, to which the Fothergilian Gold Medal was awarded by the Medical Society of London in May last. By R. W. BAMPFIELD, Esq. Surgeon to the Royal Metropolitan Infirmary for Diseases of Children, &c.

By the same Author, Second Edition of PRACTICAL TREATISES ON TROPICAL AND SCORBUTIC DYSENTERY, INDIGESTION, SCURVY, &c. as they occur in the East and West Indies, &c.

ASYLUM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

For Persons going to, or residing in the East or West Indies, America, or other places beyond the limits of Europe, including risk of Battle and Sea, and persons of delicate health, or peculiarity of form, or suffering from Chronic Disease.

No. 70, CORNHILL, LONDON.

DIRECTORS.

Sir JAMES MACKINTOSH, M. P. *President.*

THOMAS FRANKLAND LEWIS, Esq. M. P. *Vice President.*

John Ashton Yates, Esq. (Liverpool,)
Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth, Esq.
Henry Frederic Stephenson, Esq.
William Sims, Esq.
Thomas Meux, Esq.
John Kymer, Esq.
Francis Kemble, Esq.
Captain George Harris, R. N. C. B.
The Hon. William Fraser,
Thomas Fenn, Esq.
Robert Chaloner, Esq. M. P.
Stephen Nicholson Barber, Esq.
Lancelot Baugh Allen, Esq.

GEORGE FARREN, Esq. *Resident Director.*

AUDITORS.

Charles W. Hallett, Esq.; Foster Reynolds, Esq.; John Richards, Esq.

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN LONDON.

John Mason Good, M. D. F. R. S. Guildford-street.
Benjamin Travers, Esq. F. R. S. 5, New Broad-street.
Herbert Mayo, Esq. Berwick-street, Soho.

The Directors have, with great care and research, ascertained the true Law of Mortality for various Climates and Diseases; and Assurances will be granted at Premiums accurately graduated, in each case, to the risk proposed; thus, extending Insurance at reasonable rates to those from whom its benefits have hitherto been altogether withheld.

Officers and others who are subject to be called abroad, will be charged the ordinary rate of Premium (according to the Economic Table), until they actually sail, from which period only the extra charge will commence. The RIGHT of leaving England whenever they please will thus be secured to them at a rate of premium fixed and agreed upon from the commencement of the Insurance.

A Physician or consulting Surgeon of eminence is appointed in every principal Town, before whom persons wishing to effect Insurances may appear.

The Names of the Medical Officers, and every requisite information may be obtained, by application to the Resident Director; to John Ashton Yates, Esq. Liverpool; Johnson Philliott, Esq., and Messrs. Cavenagh, Browne, and Co. Bath; Henry Browne, Esq. Bristol; or Messrs. Grant, Bankers, Portsmouth.

Printed and Published by G. L. HUTCHINSON, at THE LANCET OFFICE, 210, Strand, London; where all Communications for the Editor are requested to be addressed (post paid). This work is published at an early hour every Saturday morning, and sold by all Booksellers in the United Kingdom.